

UPI-65

CPYRGH(CUBA)

NEW ORLEANS--NEW YORK ATTORNEY JAMES F. DONOVAN SAID YESTERDAY HE JOKINGLY THREATENED TO RUN FOR PREMIER OF CUBA AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO, BUT CASTRO WOULD HAVE NO PART OF IT.

DONOVAN, WHO NEGOTIATED THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN AND CUBAN PRISONERS, SAID HE MADE HIS THREAT WHEN THE FIRST BATCH OF PRISONERS WERE BEING LOADED FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID CASTRO, SURROUNDED BY MILITIAMEN, WAS WATCHING THE LOADING OPERATION. DONOVAN SAID HE TOLD THE PREMIER HIS EXCHANGE WOULD ACCOMPLISH MUCH FOR BOTH CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES.

"I THINK DURING THE NEXT ELECTION I AM GOING TO COME BACK AND RUN AGAINST YOU AND LICK YOU," DONOVAN SAID HE TOLD THE PREMIER.

THERE WAS A GENERAL CLICKING OF RIFLES BY THE GUARDS, DONOVAN SAID, BUT CASTRO CALLED BACK:

"I THINK YOU MAY BE RIGHT, SO THERE WILL BE NO ELECTIONS."

5/16--JDL138AED

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